

MINUTES
UMATILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Board of Commissioners' Meeting of January 2, 2014
9:00 a.m., Room 114, County Courthouse
Pendleton, Oregon

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Larry Givens, 2013 Chair; Bill Elfering, 2013 Vice Chair

COUNTY COUNSEL: Doug Olsen

MEMBERS & GUESTS PRESENT: Janet Jones, Umatilla County Umatilla County Public Health Community Health Systems Developer; Sarah Williams, Umatilla County Public Health Director; Phil Wright, East Oregonian Reporter; Robert Pahl, Umatilla County Finance Officer; Mark Royal, Umatilla County Community Justice Director

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Chair Givens reminded all present that the meeting was a public forum and announced that after two years as the chairman, he would be stepping down as the new chair was appointed.

BUSINESS ON AGENDA

Employee of the Month: Deferred to a later meeting.

Approval of Minutes: In process.

Consent Agenda: None.

Public input: None.

Agenda Items:

1. **Order Appointing Chair and Vice-Chair for 2014:** Commissioner Givens reported that the board was to assign Commissioner Elfering as the 2014 chair. Commissioner Elfering commented that he agreed to take on the seat and added that the board had two freshman commissioners and that Commissioner Murdock, the other freshman commissioner would become the vice chair. **Commissioner Givens moved to appoint Commissioner Elfering as the Chair and Commissioner Murdock as the Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Commissioner Elfering and Commissioner Givens each voted in favor of the motion, which carried 2-0.**

2. **Presentation:** Commissioner Elfering, taking the chair, read the commendations honoring the Budget Officer, Bob Heffner, and Finance Officer, Robert Pahl, for their exemplary service throughout the most recent annual audit in their entirety. The board presented the commendations to Robert Pahl and

Bob Heffner. The commendations would be placed in their personnel files.

3. **Ordinance Prohibiting Smoking and Tobacco Use on County Property - Second Reading - Public Hearing:** Doug Olsen reported that the first reading was held on December 18, 2013.

Commissioner Elfering opened the hearing at 9:09 a.m. and opened the floor for public comment almost immediately following, within the minute. Receiving no public comment, the floor was closed and Commissioner Givens performed the 2nd reading of Ordinance Number 2013-11 by title only. Commissioner Elfering closed the floor and hearing, moving the board in to deliberation and decision. **Commissioner Givens moved approval of Ordinance Number 2013-11. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Elfering each voted in favor of the motion, which carried 2-0.**

4. **Fee Ordinance Amendment - Second Reading - Public Hearing:** Commissioner Elfering opened the hearing 9:11 a.m. Doug Olsen reported that the fee amendment was made necessary by 2013 state legislation. Commissioner Givens read Ordinance Number 2013-010 by title only. Commissioner Elfering opened the floor for public comment at 9:11 a.m. and receiving none, closed the floor at 9:12 a.m., moving the board into deliberation and decision. **Commissioner Givens moved approval of Ordinance Number 2013-010. Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Elfering each voted aye and the motion carried 2-0.**

5. **Echo Community Benefit Plan Grant Awards:** Commissioner Elfering reported that the Echo Community Benefit Plan Board meeting was held in Echo where the committee decided upon the recipients. The commissioner noted that not all the grants applied for were approved. Two were approved and two were denied for the current round. **Commissioner Givens moved that the Board approve the Echo Community Benefit Plan grants for the 1st round totaling \$37,500, Order Number BCC2014-002. Commissioner Elfering seconded,** adding that the awards granted were to replace the trees lost in a lightning storm at the golf course and cemetery and to replace a 63 year old backhoe at the city cemetery. **Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Elfering voted aye and the motion carried 2-0.**

6. **Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding:** Mark Royal reported that he was seeking approval on a letter directed by Commissioner Murdock seeking funding through the Youth Development Council. The funds were used to operate the CARE program and for specific needs. The amount was reduced for the current cycle, but the concern was the change in the manner of allocation. The letter presented was crafted by Commissioner Murdock, stating the county's stance.

Commissioner Elfering asked how the funds were distributed. Mark Royal responded that the distribution changed from a population distribution basis to a competitive model.

Commissioner Elfering noted that some counties had specific grant writers. Mark Royal noted that to provide that kind of effort would be more expensive than smaller counties could bear and pointed out that the change in the distribution process did not result from a unanimous vote. He expected that the distribution process could be addressed in the legislative session.

Commissioner Elfering read the letter in its entirety. **Commissioner Givens moved to forward the letter as is. Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Elfering each voted aye. The motion carried**

2-0.

7. **Strategic Plan Discussion:** Commissioner Elfering reported that as a county commission, the board was establishing a strategic plan, laying out goals and directions as a county to follow. Each department was to provide a strategic plan for itself.

Doug Olsen added that the Board of Commissioners' plan was being presented for the commissioners' input. In the meantime, the county would continue the process of the reorganization as shown on the document listing the changes to the board office and committee goals.

Commissioner Givens commented that he had some pretty positive feedback to the changes so far. He referred back to the overview, noting the board operated as a 3 member board with two other elected officials.

The commissioner covered the history of the retirement of Dennis Doherty and election of Bill Hansell to the state senate, noting that the senior member of the board had 7 years' experience and the next most experienced had 1 year and the third 6 months. The goal was to try to improve efficiency with the intent to provide more access to services and transparency. The purpose of the strategic plan was to provide more access and responsiveness department by department.

Part of the changes included changes in the building in the process to improve the services of the government, he recalled that the NACo publication, "Why Are Counties Relevant" pointed out what counties do and the differences between counties.

Commissioner Elfering pointed out that the two new commissioners who came from different backgrounds, had no difficulty in questioning why something was done in a particular way. Because it was always done that way was not a good answer. He added that the board had 6 full time staff in the Board of Commissioners' office and had no plans to add staff, though there was consideration of plans to change the duties of the administrative assistant.

Commissioner Givens moved approval of the strategic plan. Commissioner Elfering seconded. Commissioner Givens amended his motion to emphasize it as an ongoing document. Commissioner Givens and Commissioner Givens each voted aye. The motion carried 2-0.

New Business: None.

Commissioners reports:

Larry Givens: The commissioner noted that he had enjoyed the last few days off and added that the he had a busy schedule in January with added duties as the 2nd Vice President of AOC. He noted that at the end of the second full week of the month, he would be attending the OFA conference in Salem.

Bill Elfering: Commissioner Elfering commented that he was pleased that he was starting the year with a clear desk and shared pictures sent by the LRA on the relocation of the antelope. The antelope were moved off the land by sedating the animals for the capture and move. They were taken to another preserve and released. He added that he also faced a very busy schedule for the month as with

any new year.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held January 15, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Headley
Executive Secretary
Umatilla County
Board of Commissioners